



CCM 2012 Testimony

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LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

House Bill 5203 "An Act Concerning Municipal Collective Bargaining Arbitration and the Appointment of Arbitrators to the Arbitration Panel"

CCM **opposes HB 5203** as it would eliminate local CEO authority (and union representatives') to select their respective arbitrator – and instead, would impose a new state mandate that stipulates the selection of arbitrators shall be randomly selected and assigned by the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration.

CCM has long-advocated for modest adjustments to local collective bargaining in order to preserve the integrity of the process – including recommendations that would have established guidelines for arbitrators' qualifications (that they are members of either the American Arbitration Association, or the Alternative Dispute Resolution Center). However, HB 5203 would be the opposite of a modest reform by abolishing the right of both parties to select an arbitrator.

CCM urges the Committee to **oppose HB 5203**.

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If you have any questions, please contact Bob Labanara, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM via email rlabanara@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3023.